

BLACKEYED PEAS BRING IN CASH
COLLEGE STATION, January

---Blackeyed peas have developed
into a big cash crop in West Texas,

In Dawson and surrounding counties, the 1946 crop of green field peas brought farmers an average of \$110 per ton in the hull, reports Dawson County Agricultural Agent T. A. Barfield. The blackeyed pea acreage in Dawson County alone last year was between 20,000 and 25,000 acres, Barfield says. Yields were reported to range from 400 to 2000 pounds per acre.

Commenting on the value of the peas as a cash crop, the county agent states, "Our minimum price at Lamesa was \$80 per ton, and competitive buying boosted the top price paid to \$130 per ton. I judge that the average price paid at Lamesa in 1946 was \$100 or \$110 per ton".

The green peas have helped Dawson County farmers to restore some "much needed nitrogen" to the soil, Barfield says, as well as bring in cash during the last two dry years that the county has had.

Large acreages were also planted to the peas in Lubbock, Lynn, Terry, Bailey and Hale Counties, says Barfield, and "some fabulous yields" were reported on land under irrigation.

"Buyers seem to like the superior quality of the West Texas black-eyed peas", the county agent continues, "and they tell me that the peas have fuller pods, which make them yield more cans of peas per ton."

He adds that many Dawson County farmers will be planting black-eyed peas as long as there is a market for them.